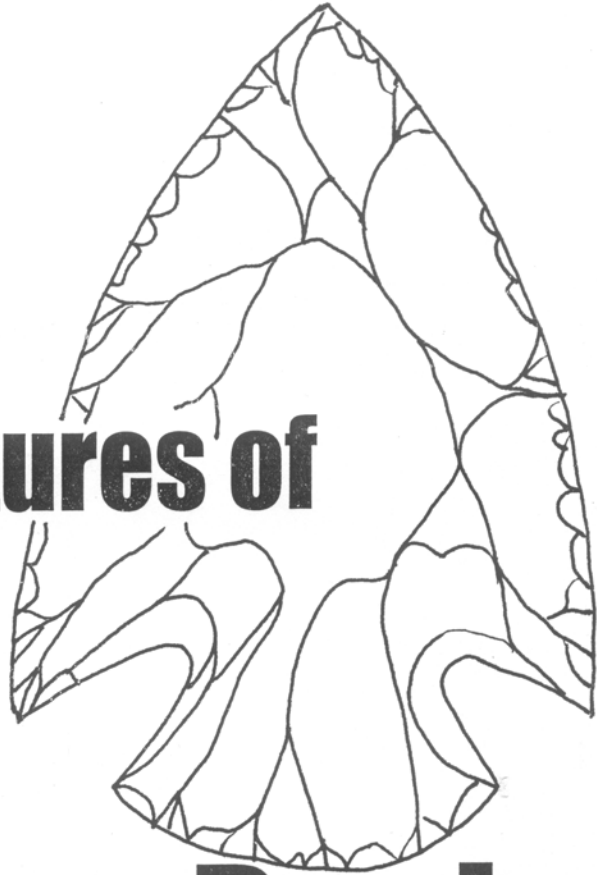


Early Cultures of Indiana



Coloring Book

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources



HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

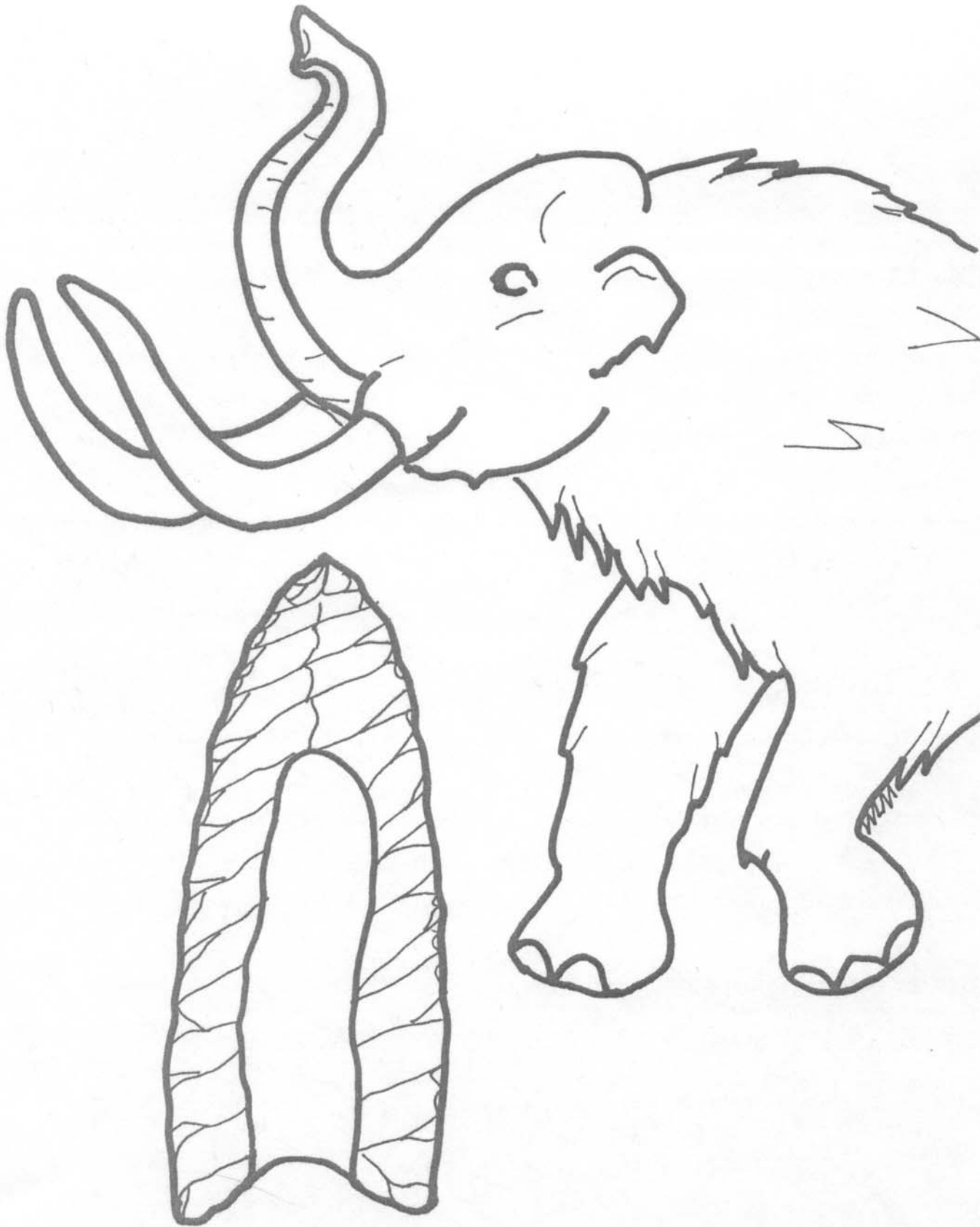
Text and illustrations by William Mangold, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Revised 2003.

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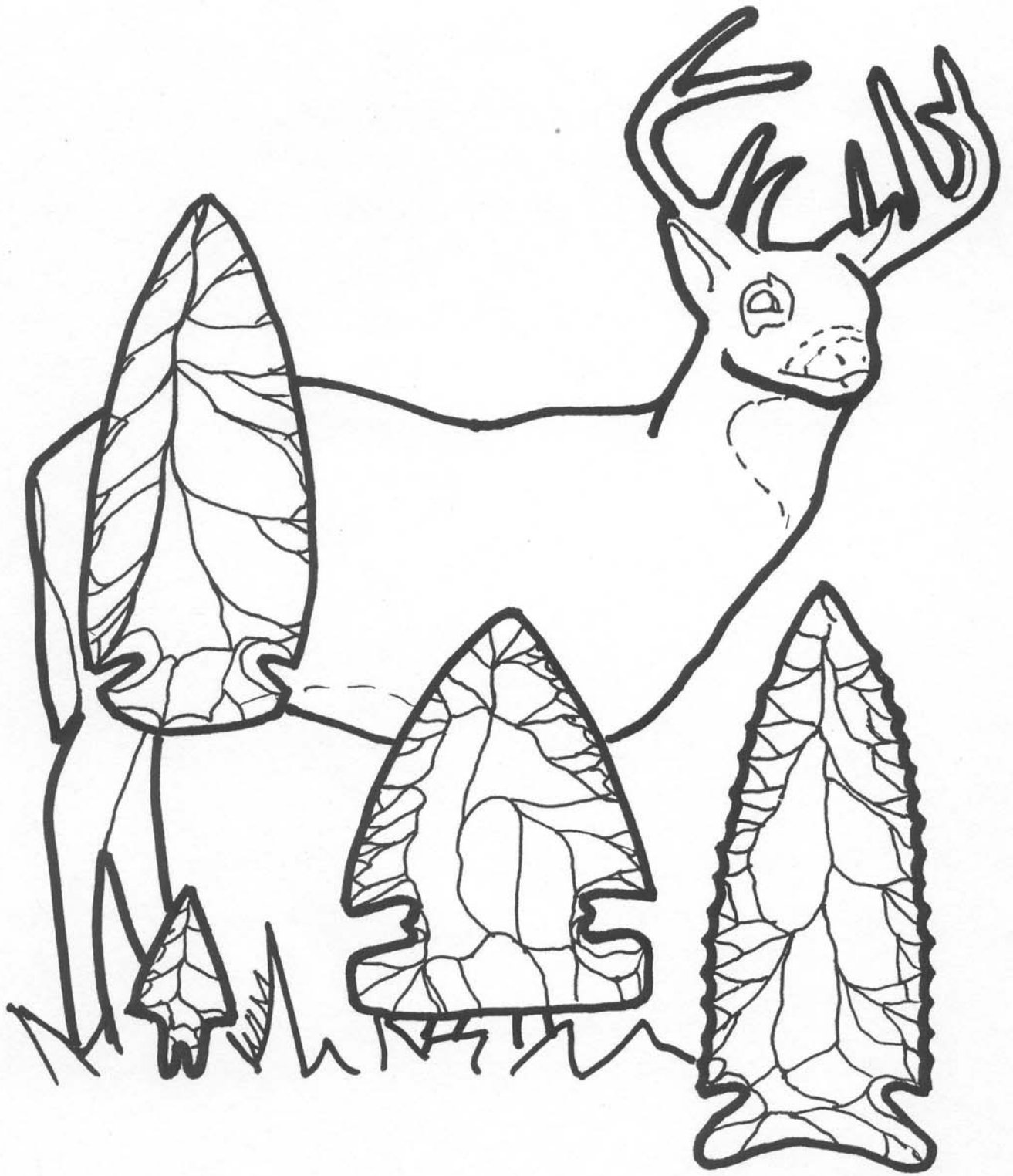


PALEOINDIANS

About 10,000 – 7,500 B.C

The Paleoindians are thought to be the first Native Americans to live in North America (including Indiana). There were never many of them living in an area at one time. They moved from one campsite to another as they hunted animals like the mammoth, mastodon, caribou and others and gathered plants and roots to eat. Their spear points are very unique in shape and usually made of very good quality stone (called chert). Their campsites are hard to find as there was little left behind by these people after they lived there. They lived either in tents or simple shelters that would be hard for an archaeologist to identify their locations.



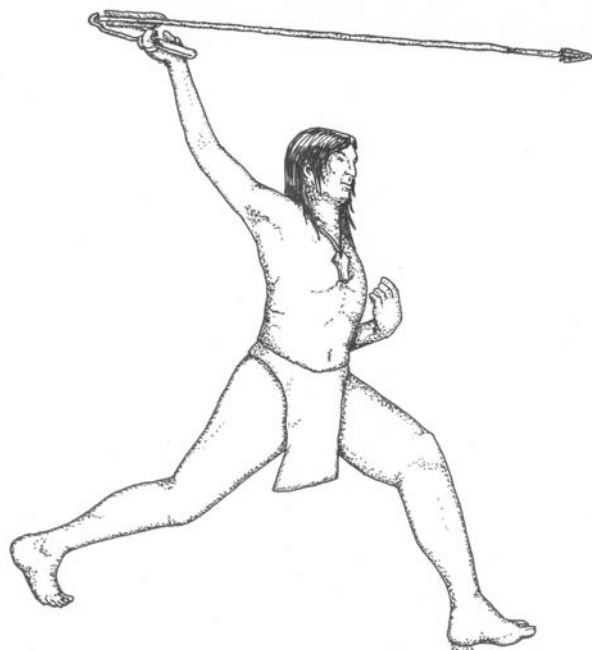


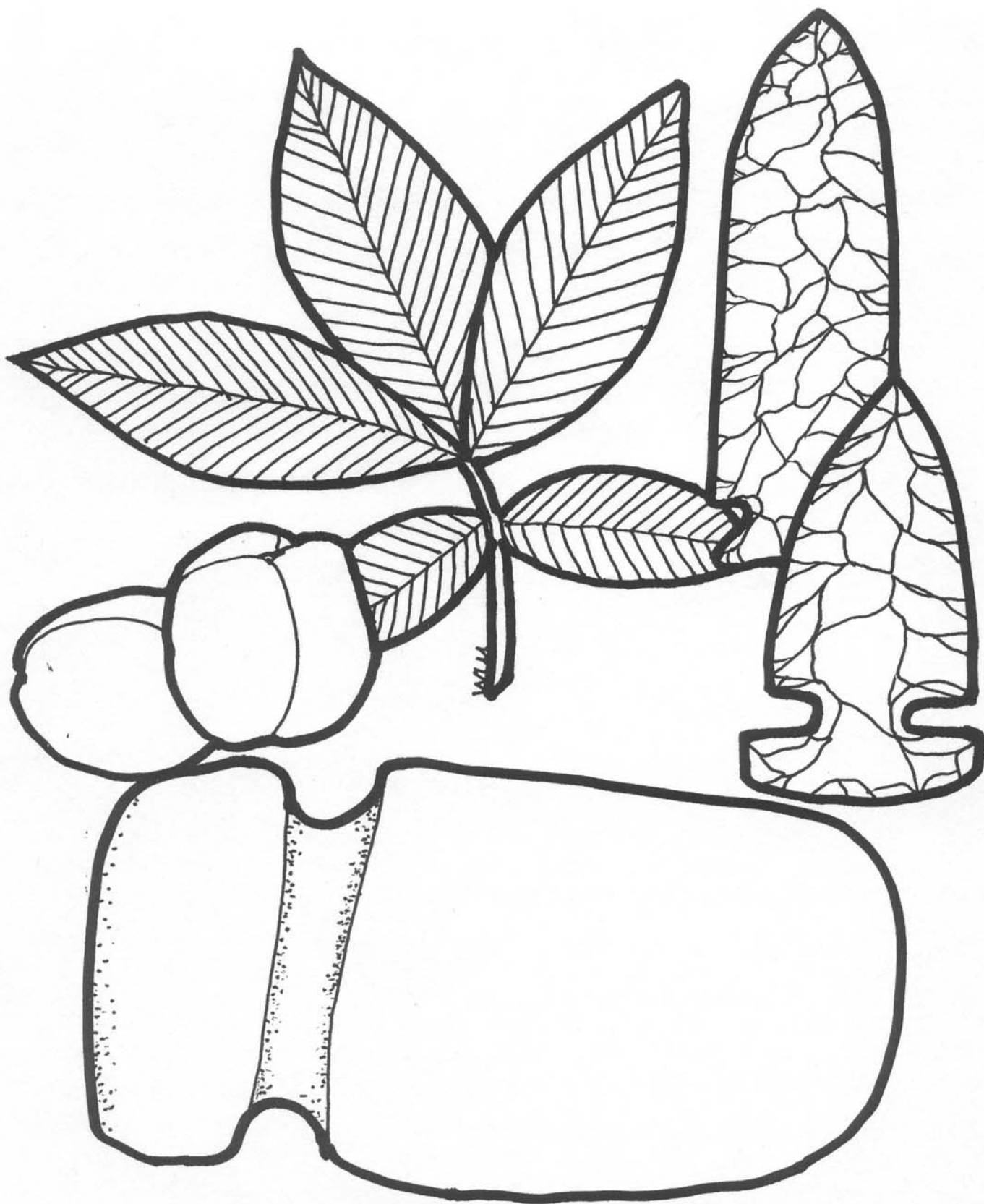
EARLY ARCHAIC

About 8,000 – 6,000 B.C.

The Early Archaic people were hunters and gathered plants, roots and nuts like the earlier Paleoindians. However, their favorite animals were now elk, deer and bear. The weather and the land were changing and these people changed, too. New ways of attaching their stone spear points had been discovered.

Archaeologists can tell this by the notching of the points that was not seen before. They probably hunted with spears thrown using an atlatl or spearthrower. This helped to make the spear go farther. The Early Archaic people did not move around as much as the Paleoindians. They may have only changed campsites at the different seasons of the year or if the game, plants, and wood for fires and building were gone. An Early Archaic cemetery was found at a site in Bartholomew County, Indiana. Shells that had come from the Gulf of Mexico through trading with other people were found with the burials.



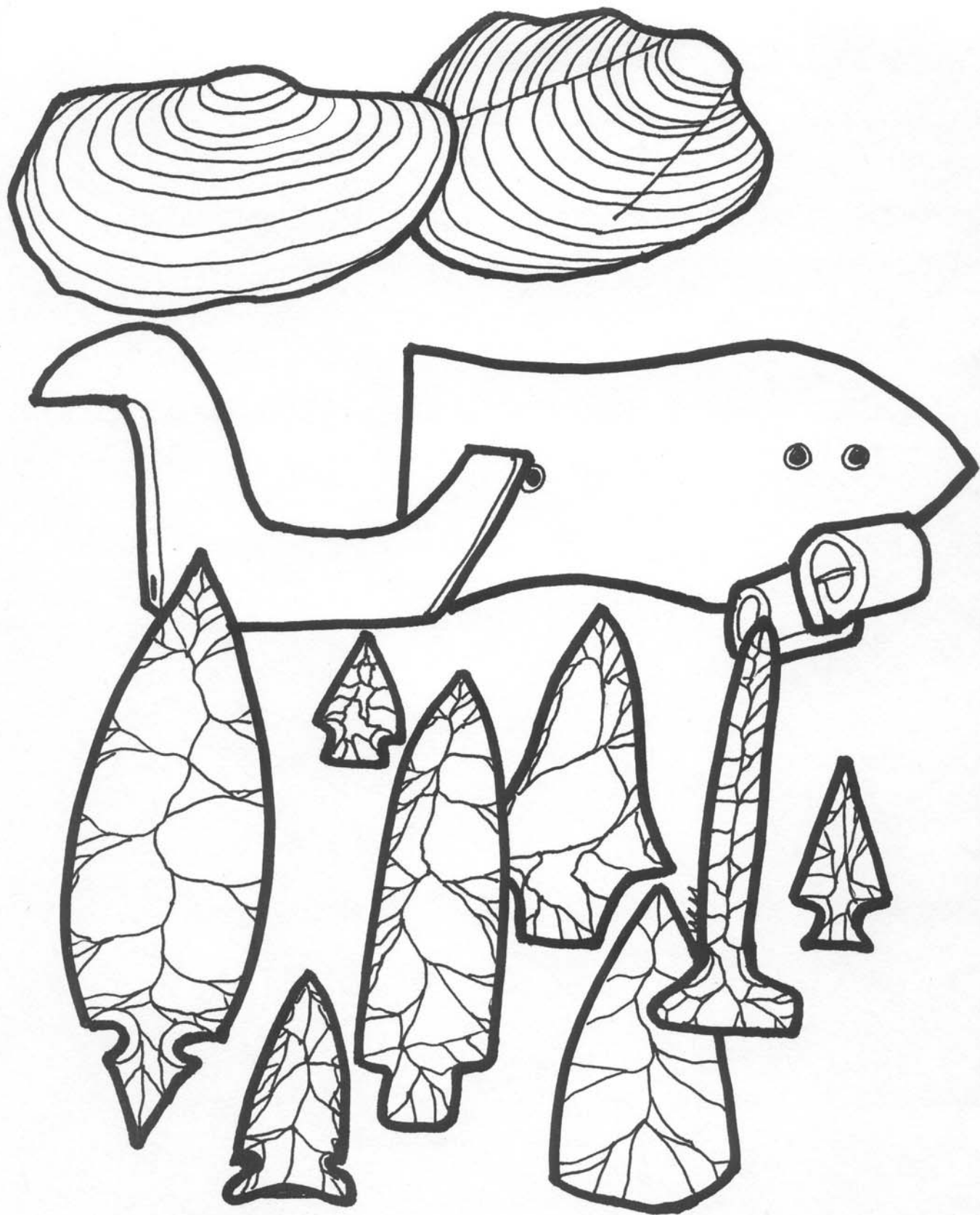


MIDDLE ARCHAIC

About 6,000 – 3,500 B.C.

The Middle Archaic peoples were the first to use stone axes. (Yes, it is possible to chop down trees with them.) Their campsites seem to be used longer and are near rivers. Nuts and maybe seeds are gathered for food along with hunting and gathering. New tools were invented to help to process those foods. A number of projectile point styles start in the Middle Archaic and are used through the Late Archaic with few changes. This makes it difficult for archaeologists to tell how old some sites really are. It is about this time that dogs became an important part of the lives of Native Americans. Dog burials are found in sites of this time period which would show that the people loved their animals. The Bluegrass site in Warrick County was a big Middle to Late Archaic site with both human and dog burials, garbage pits, cooking fires, and beautifully carved hairpins made of bone.





LATE ARCHAIC

About 4,000 – 700 B.C.

There is no clear end to the Middle Archaic and the start of the Late Archaic.

Many artifacts that were used in the Middle Archaic are still

used in the Late Archaic. However, as time goes on,

differences appear so that an archaeologist can tell one

group from another. Some of the groups have been

given names like Glacial Kame, Red Ochre, Riverton,

and French Lick. The number of tool types increases.



Special artifacts appear that are used in necklaces (slate pendants and gorgets and stone, shell and copper beads). Some artifacts, like the slate birdstone, may

have been used in ways that archaeologists have yet to really figure out. Some

stone tools are very, very small. Villages can be small or large. Some include

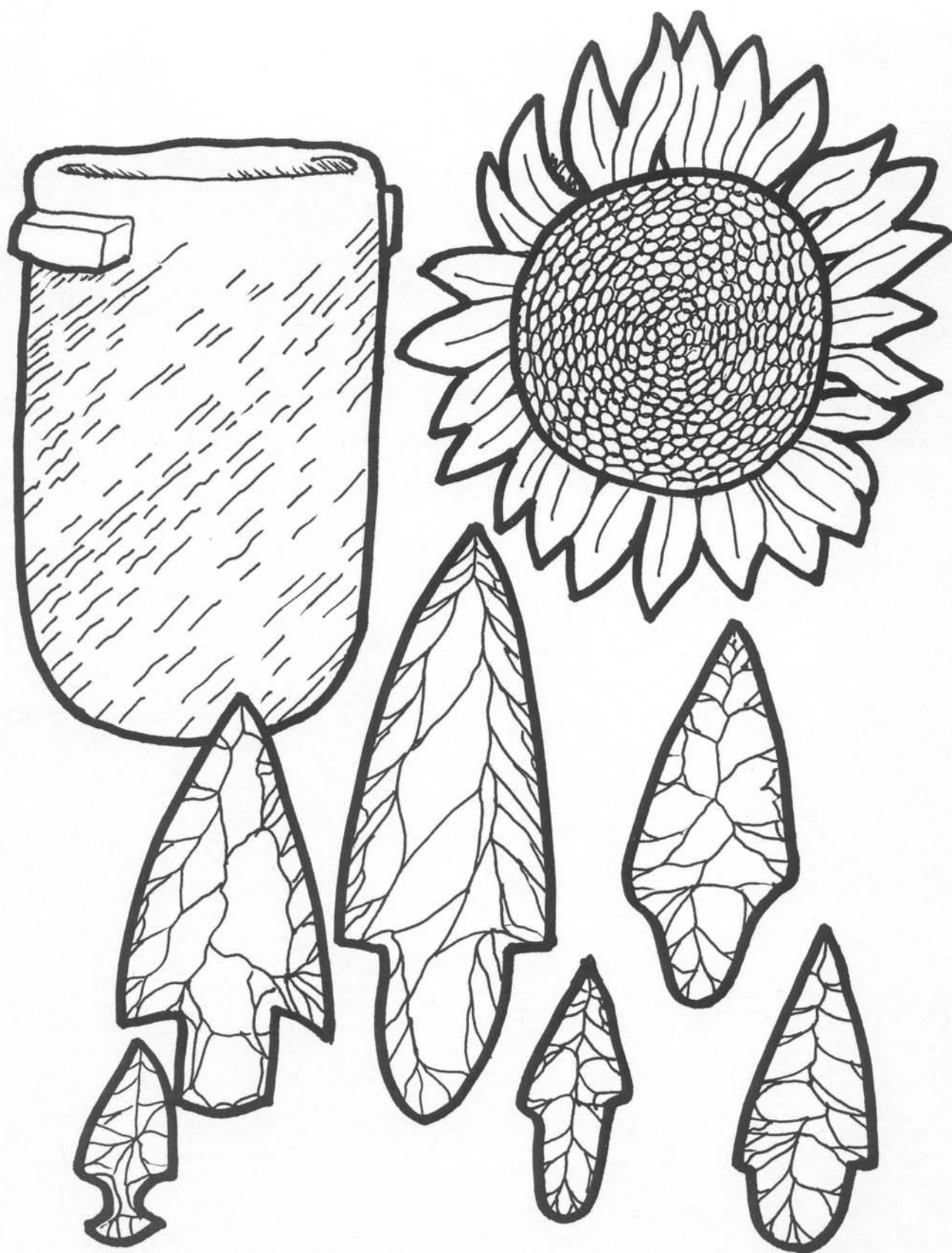
piles of mussel shells. Mussels were a favorite food when they were available.

People who died were buried with ceremonies and sometimes in small mounds

of earth. The McCain site in Dubois County along the East Branch of the White

River had a shell “midden” with it. The Wint site in southeastern Indiana was

used by Riverton people and had remains of houses and large layers of garbage.



EARLY WOODLAND

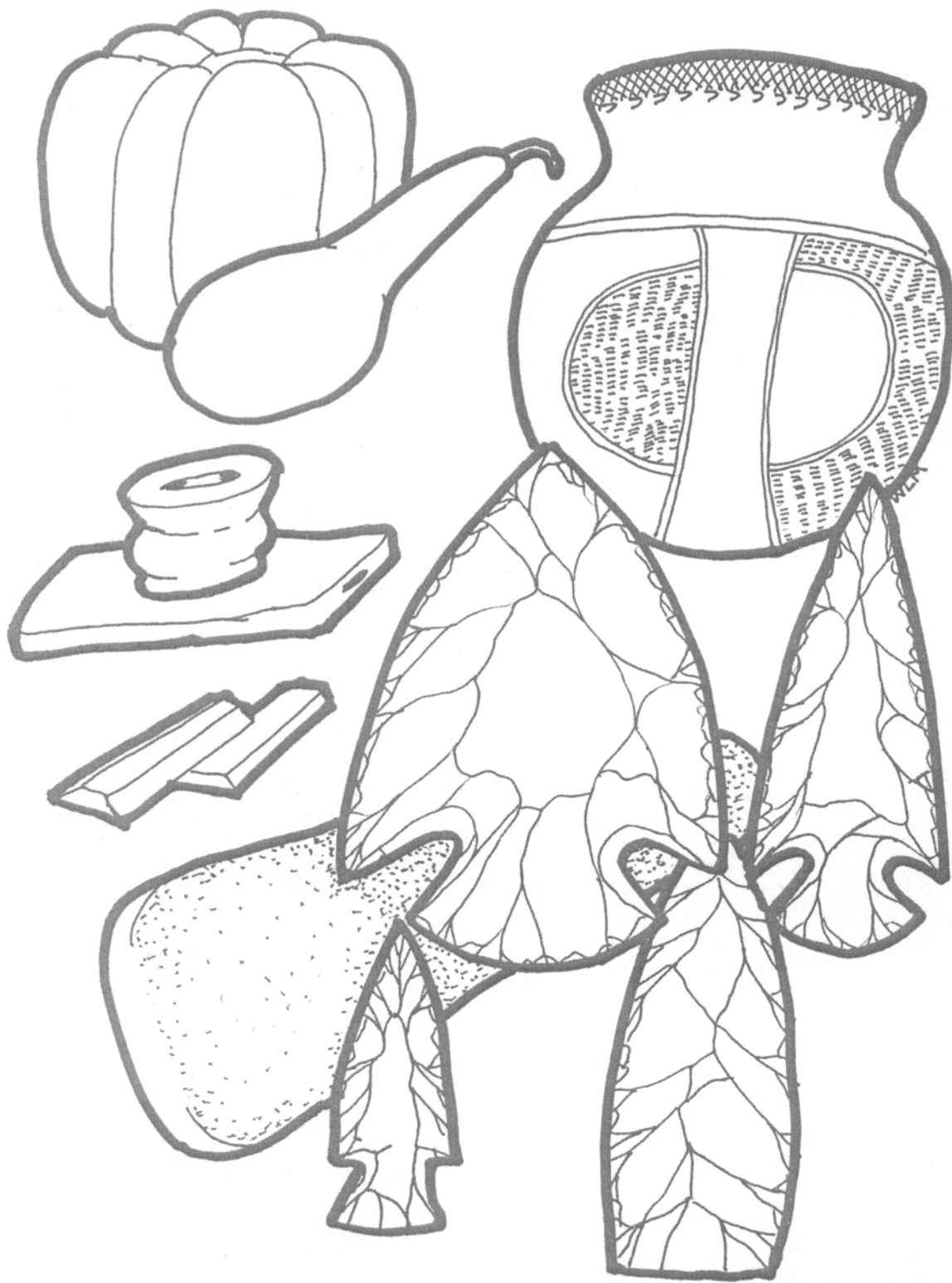
About 1,000 – 200 B.C.

The main difference between Late Archaic and Early Woodland is the appearance of pottery. The earliest pots are large, have thick walls and their surface is roughened by rope being pushed into the clay while it was still wet.

The pottery changes fairly quickly and many new styles and varieties are found by the end of the period. Archaeologists can

tell that cloth was being woven from the impressions of it found on the surface of some pots. Gardens that included sunflowers and gourds (both for food) were now being used. Mounds for burials continue and rituals become more important. Some burials are placed into log tombs. The Nowlin Mound in Dearborn County contained log tombs.



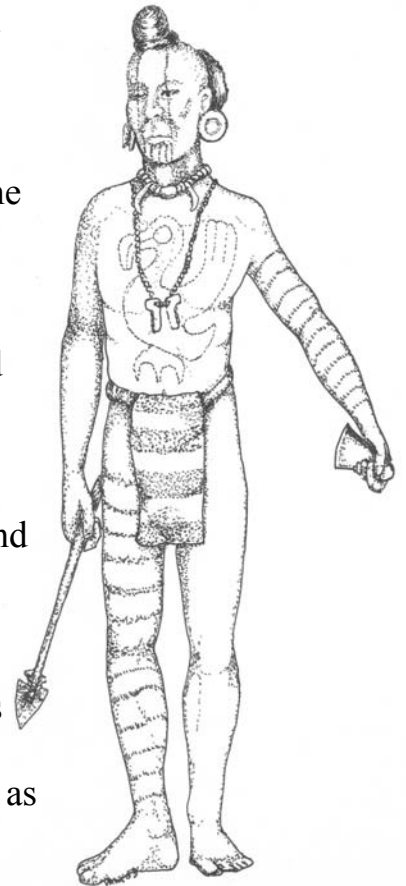


MIDDLE WOODLAND

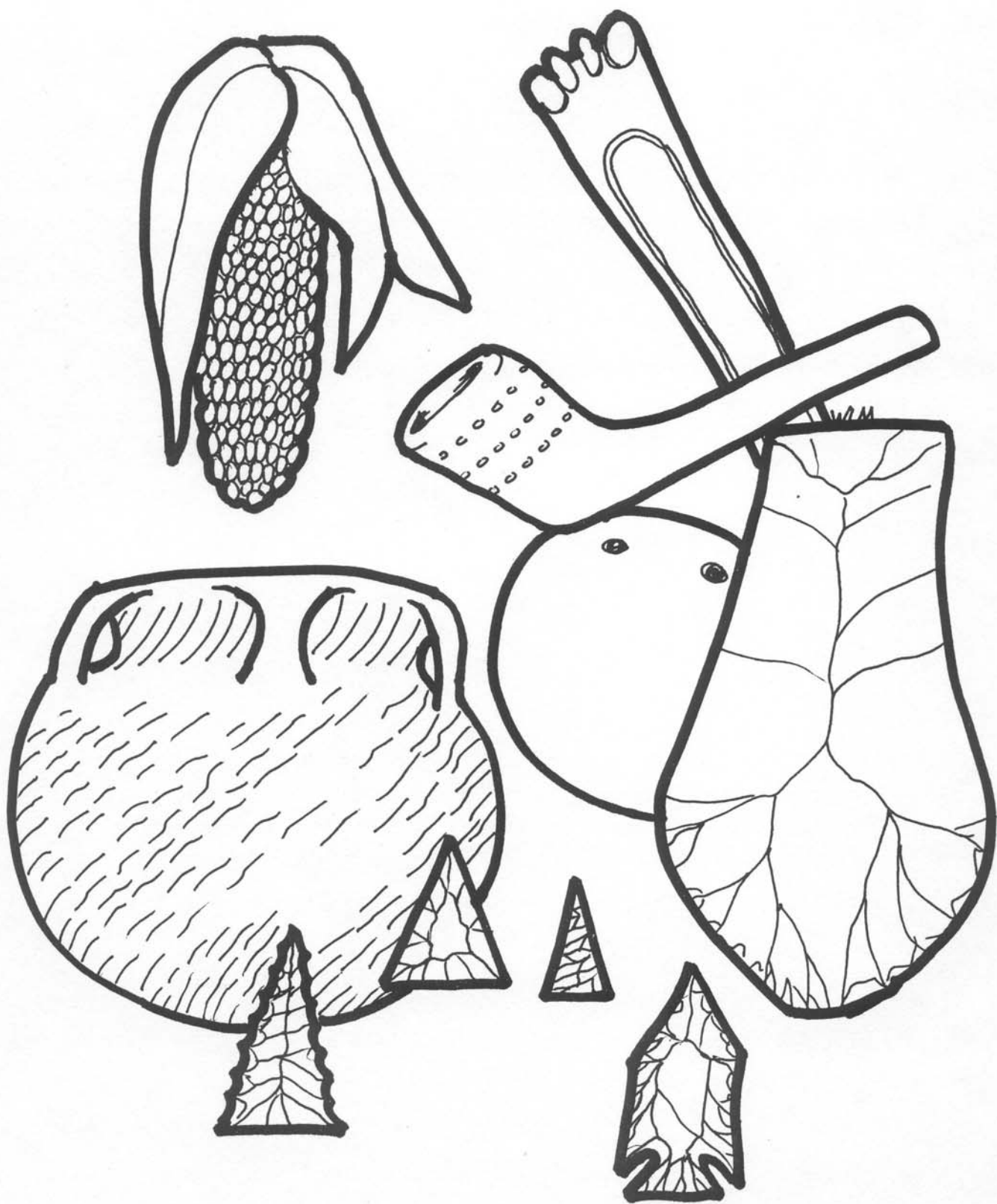
About 200 B.C. – A.D. 600

The Early and Middle Woodland periods overlap in many areas.

The Middle Woodland peoples in Indiana were influenced by other peoples in Ohio and Illinois. Many items were traded, some from as far away as the Rocky Mountains, Lake Superior, the Gulf of Mexico and the Appalachian Mountains. Stone axes had lost their grooves and were attached to handles using new methods. Tobacco was being grown and used, as were squash and gourds. Seeds from plants (we call them weeds) like Goosefoot and Lamb's Quarter were being gathered and eaten. Thin slivers of stone called lamellar blades were being produced. They were as sharp as razors and were used for cutting many different things.



Pottery was very decorative or very plain, depending on its purpose. Clay figurines were also made in southern Indiana. Rituals and ceremonies became very important. Mounds were often constructed in large groups, like at the Mann site in Posey County, the Goodall site in LaPorte County, the New Castle site in Henry County or Mounds State Park in Madison County.



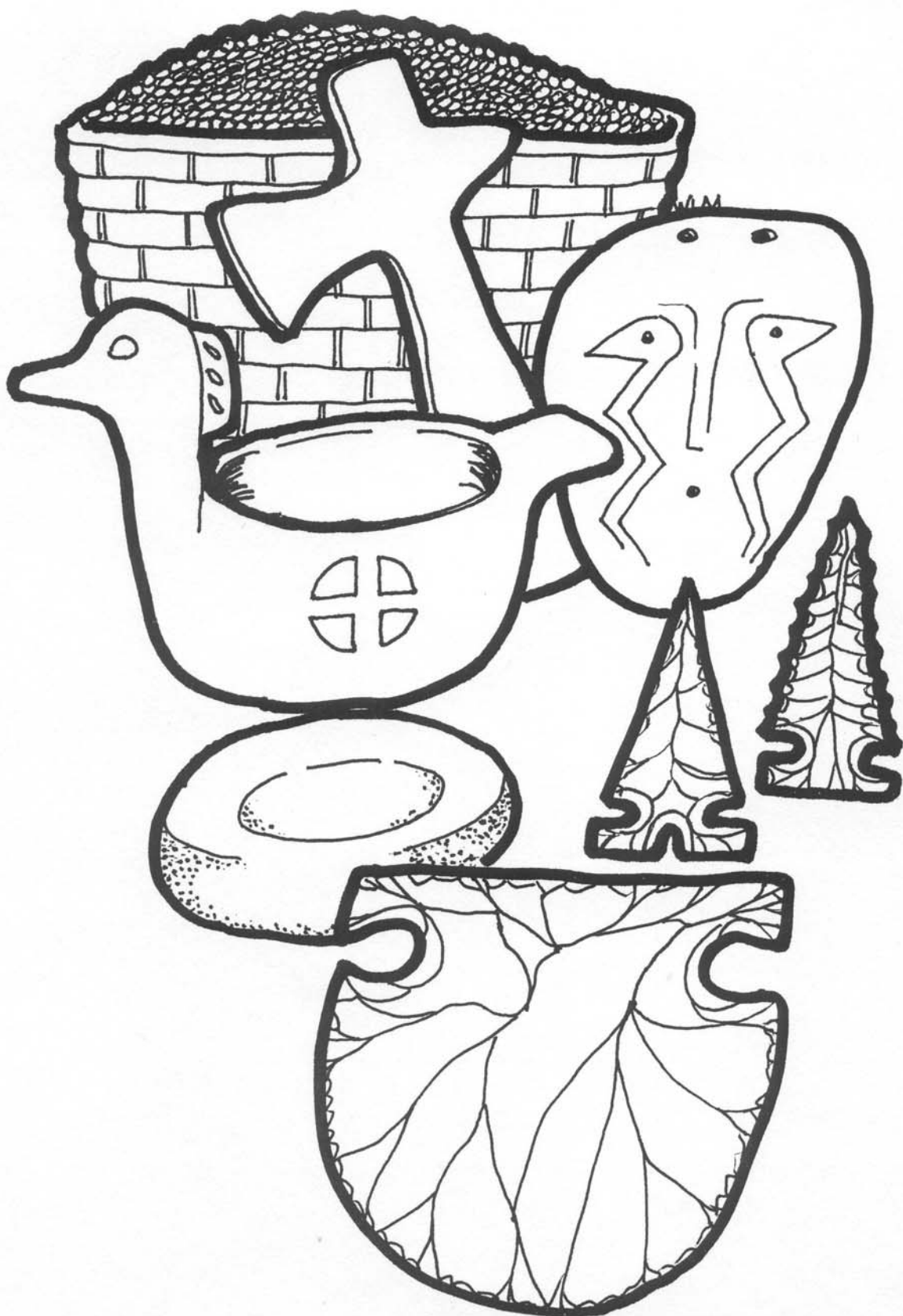
LATE WOODLAND

About A.D. 500 – 1200

The Late Woodland may continue until first contact with European cultures in some areas around A.D. 1650. During the first portion of the Late Woodland, the bow and arrow appear, as well as stone hoes for use in the expanding gardens. Corn is now an important crop. It had actually first appeared during the Middle Woodland but was not used that much. The Late Woodland garden contained corn, beans, squash and tobacco. Later Native Americans often call these first three foods the “Three Sisters.” Archaeologists can tell that the bow and arrow is being used by the change to small triangular arrowheads (the first true “arrowheads”). Pottery has thinner walls for better cooking and some pots used for storage are very big, holding as much as five gallons of water or corn kernels. Villages are smaller and some have earthen walls and wooden fences surrounding them. Mounds are still sometimes used for burials but they are smaller and not in large groups like during the Middle Woodland.



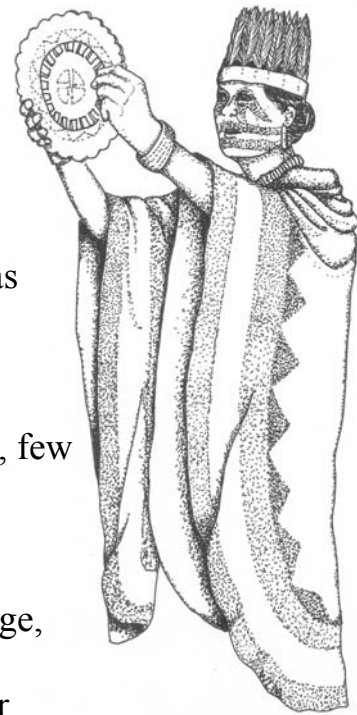
Some examples of Late Woodland sites are the Shaffer site (Greene County), the Morell-Sheets site (Montgomery County), the Commissary site (Henry County), and the Clampett Site (Orange County).

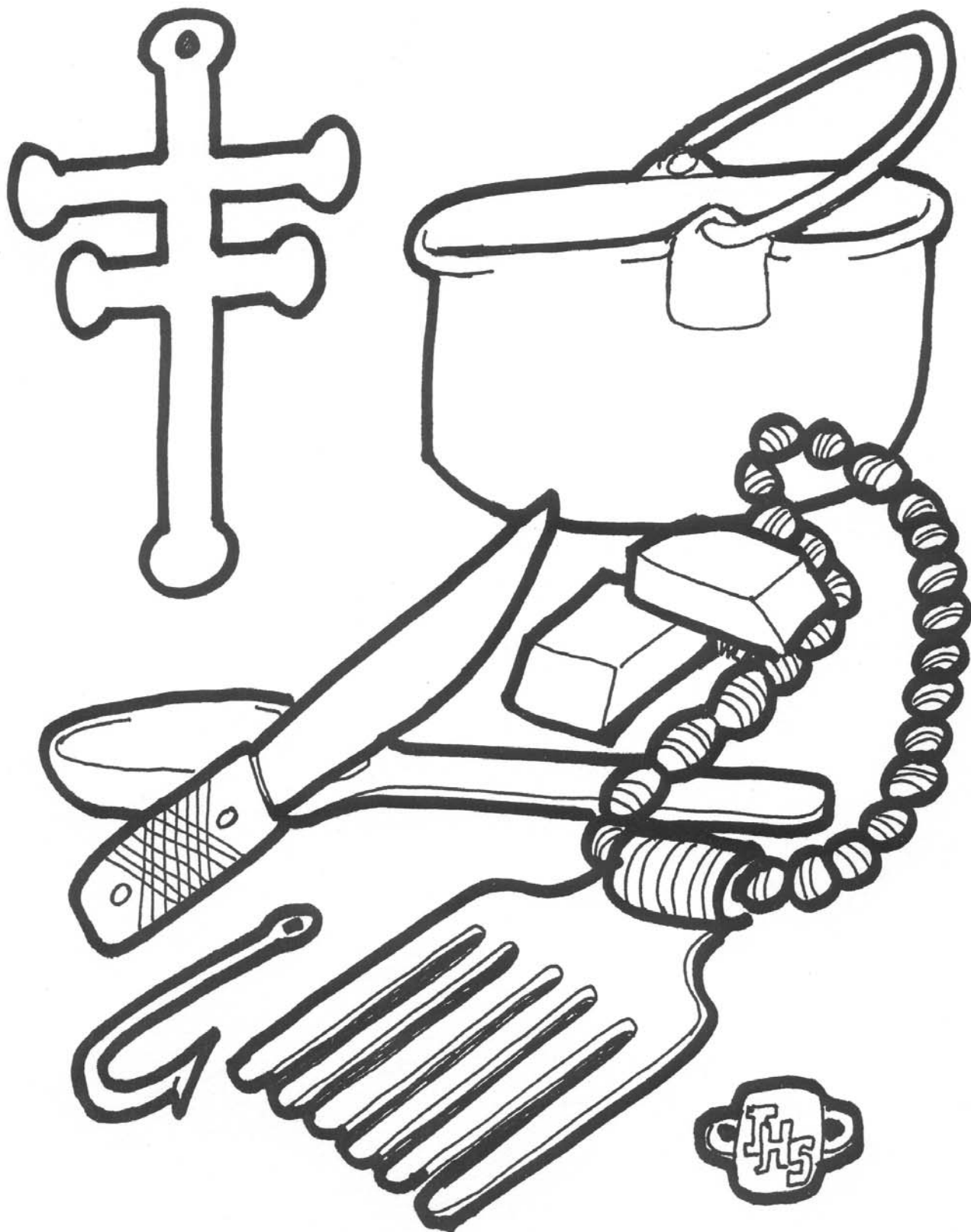


MISSISSIPPIAN

About A.D. 1000 – 1650

Mississippian peoples also include those people who were basically Late Woodland but had adopted some artifacts or ways of neighboring Mississippian people. In northwestern Indiana, for example, the people of this time are called “Upper Mississippian” because they use pottery that has pieces of ground-up mussel shell in it which is the way true Mississippian people made their pottery. However, few other Mississippian items are found in that area. The Mississippian peoples in southwestern Indiana built large, flat-topped mounds but these mounds were not used for burials. Instead, they had the houses of the chiefs and priests or temples built on them. The villages were large with a plaza (an open area) in the center and surrounded by a fence or wall. Smaller villages of two or three families were also scattered around the countryside. These people were farmers and raised large amounts of corn. The largest Mississippian site in Indiana is the Angel site in Vanderburgh County. The biggest known Mississippian site is Cahokia in East St. Louis, Illinois, and was probably the biggest town in what would be the United States until the 1800s.





HISTORIC NATIVE AMERICANS

After A.D. 1650

After contact with European and American explorers, many of the Native American groups changed. They used many of the things used by the explorers and settlers, including brass or copper pots, iron or steel knives and fish hooks, and guns. They also liked glass beads, mirrors, wool cloth and silver jewelry. They traded furs, hides and often corn and other food for these items. The Europeans and Americans tried to get various tribes to join with them in their wars. The Native Americans who lived in Indiana included those originally from the area and others who had recently arrived. The tribes that lived in Indiana included the Miami, the Potawatomi, the Wea, the Delaware, the Piankashaw, and others. By the 1840s many of the Native Americans had moved away. It is difficult for archaeologists to tell if a site is historic Native American or that of an early Euro-American settler because the artifacts left behind were so much alike.

